



Malfunction Reporting

Ammunition Surveillance Division

AMSJM-QAS

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What is an ammunition malfunction?

- Failure of an ammunition item to function as expected when fired or launched, explosive items that fail to function.
- Malfunctions of ammunition under normal handling, maintenance, storage, transportation and tactical deployment include:
 - Hangfires
 - Misfires
 - Duds
 - abnormal functioning (low order detonation, height of burst irregularity, irregular fuze delay)
 - premature functioning

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Definitions

- Hangfire
 - An undesired delay in the functioning of a firing system. A hangfire for a rocket occurs if the rocket propellant is ignited by the firing impulse, but the rocket fails to exit the launcher within the expected time (applies to HYDRA-70/2.75 inch rocket).
- Misfire
 - Failure of a primer, propelling charge of a round, or rocket or guided missile ignition and/or propulsion system to function, wholly or in part.
- Dud
 - An explosive munition that has not been armed as intended or has failed to explode after being armed

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What else needs to be reported?

- All instances of non-conformance dealing with ammunition, to include incidents that may be a malfunction
- Incidents that result in injury or death and/or significant weapon damage or may have adverse political implications
- Incidents involving timing and headspace (H&T) on M2 MG if the ammunition failed to function as intended
- Incidents involving weapon repair and maintenance if the ammunition failed to function as intended
- Incidents that are similar to those that have resulted in injury or death and/or significant weapon damage

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Why should I report a malfunction?

- The Joint Munitions Command (JMC) Quality Assurance (QA) Directorate tracks the history of all conventional ammunition
- Units are only issued specific lots of ammunition of known quality and that will meet the specific units' requirements – in both training and combat
- JMC QA tracks and takes appropriate restriction and/or suspension actions on all reported malfunctions
- By reporting all malfunctions, JMC can ensure that you get the best available ammunition to meet your mission

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What happens if I don't report a malfunction?

- JMC won't know that you have a problem
- JMC can't take corrective actions on problems they don't know about
- Defective or unserviceable ammunition may stay in the hands of troops
- Your unit may be issued ammunition that won't meet your requirements
- Failure to report a malfunction may cause a serious injury or death in another AOR
- Mission failure may result

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What do I do if I have a malfunction?

- Immediately cease fire
- Inform your squad or platoon leader
- Your immediate leader should contact the unit ammunition officer or person in charge of the particular combat or training mission
- In training environments, your unit leadership should contact range control personnel
- In combat environments, your unit leadership should contact the FCO or TOC

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What happens next?

- Your unit leadership needs to immediately contact the local ammunition officer, installation quality assurance specialist (ammunition surveillance) (QASAS), supporting ammunition logistics assistance representative (LAR), logistic support element armament LAR, and installation safety officer; and the nearest explosives ordnance disposal (EOD) unit will be notified if the ammunition is considered hazardous.

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What can I do to help?

- Preserve the firing point
- Do not alter the weapon
- Do not alter any remaining ammunition
- Take note of the conditions at time of the malfunction, to include ambient temperature; humidity; was it raining, snowing, overcast, cloudy or sunny
- Take note of the condition of the ammunition
- Take note of how the ammunition had been stored – was it properly packaged?
- Take note of how many rounds you have fired that day
- Take note of NSN, DODIC, and lot number

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What else is happening?

- Unit ammunition officer, QASAS, ammunition and weapons LARs, and safety personnel are gathering facts and sorting out the details of the malfunction
- Unit ammunition officer, QASAS or ammunition LAR are completing the DA Form 4379 (Ammunition Malfunction Report)
- Preliminary malfunction report is submitted to JMC via most expeditious means (telephone or email)
- Report submitted to JMC QAS during normal duty hours (Mon-Fri/0600-1630 CONUS central time) or JMC Operations Center during non-duty hours

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JMC Points of Contact

- Ammunition Surveillance Division (QAS)
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